

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2009BY000271

Assigned DA/ADA: Craig Haukaas

-vs-

Agency Case No.:

Michael J. Wood
793 80th Ave
Amery, WI 54001
DOB: 03/30/1984
Sex/Race: M/W
Alias:

Court Case No.:
ATN:

Defendant,

Criminal Complaint

Aimee Egstad, of the WI DNR Bureau Of Law Enforcement, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: MISTREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The above-named defendant on February 20, 2009 on the ice of Lake Superior adjacent to the Town of Bell, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, did intentionally treat an animal, a coyote, in a cruel manner, resulting in the animal's death, contrary to sec. 951.02, 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 2: MISTREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The above-named defendant on February 20, 2009 on the ice of Lake Superior adjacent to the Town of Bell, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, did intentionally treat an animal, a coyote, in a cruel manner, resulting in the animal's death, contrary to sec. 951.02, 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 3: MISTREATMENT OF ANIMALS

The above-named defendant on February 20, 2009 on the ice of Lake Superior adjacent to the Town of Bell, Bayfield County, Wisconsin, did intentionally treat an animal, a coyote, in a cruel manner, resulting in the animal's death, contrary to sec. 951.02, 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

, and prays that said defendant be dealt with according to law; and that the basis for the complainant's charge of such offense is contained in the attachment to this complaint which attachment constitutes a part of this complaint and is hereby incorporated into this complaint by reference.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
and approved for filing on:

This _____ day of _____, 2009

Complainant

District Attorney

State Bar No. 1020497

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Complainant is a Conservation Warden with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. She makes this complaint on information and belief from the records and reports collected and maintained in the ordinary course of business. On Friday, February 20, 2009 at approximately 4:41 p.m. Egstad was at the Bayfield DNR Office when she received a phone call concerning a snowmobiler chasing what the caller thought to be a wolf on the ice of Lake Superior on Bark Bay, west of Cornucopia in the Town of Bell, Bayfield County, Wisconsin. Egstad left the office and proceeded towards the site of the complainant. Egstad spoke by phone with Dan and Sharon Sheldon who stated that they had watched one person on an orange snowmobile chase around what they believed to be a wolf on the ice at Bark Bay and had hit the animal with his snowmobile. They observed the person pick up the animal and drive to the Bark Bay point boat landing. They stated that they had observed the snowmobiler chase the animal for 30 minutes at least and hit the animal a couple of times with the snowmobile. At approximately the same time Egstad was contacted by Mark Hanson, Bayfield Department of Natural Resources Creel Clerk who stated that he had observed a snowmobiler chasing coyotes and hitting them as well as picking them up when they were laying on the ice. Hanson stated that he had taken digital photos of the pick-up truck that the snowmobiler was driving. The plate of the vehicle came back registered to Michael J. Wood of Amery, Wisconsin, the defendant herein. Egstad had previously been advised that the truck in question was at a residence in the area. Egstad went to the location and met with Michael Wood. Egstad was advised by Wood that he had been out fishing on the ice during the day and had gotten three coyotes that were in his trailer. Egstad asked Wood how he had gotten the coyotes and Wood stated that he had shot them with his .22. Egstad observed the coyotes and believed them to be suffering from much more damage than if they had been shot with a .22. Wood denied using his snowmobiles to hit the coyotes but admitted to following them until they were tired and then shot them. Egstad observed Wood's snowmobile and the track and belly pan had blood under the front end skis and track consistent with the animals having been run over. Egstad seized the three coyotes and subsequently had them skinned. No bullet hole was found in the carcass or skin of coyote number one, however, major trauma was located throughout the body. Coyote number two was also skinned and again evidence of severe trauma was located, however no bullet hole was observed. Coyote number three showed severe trauma throughout the body, however, trauma was also located in a restricted area near the location of one bullet hole.